GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1529
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
STEPS TO PROTECT RHINOS
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 8 Rhinos were found to have been killed during the first half of the current year in the Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary itself;

(b) if so, the total number of Rhinos killed in the country during the last 3 years, sanctuary and reserve-wise;

(c) special steps taken by the Government to protect Rhinos in the country, particularly in Assam; and

(d) the expenditure incurred by the Central Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information received form the State Governments, the number of Rhinos killed in the country during 2004, 2005 and 2006 (sanctuary wise) are as below:

Sl.No.	State	National Park/Sanctuary	Number of Rhinos killed 2004	2005	2006
1	Assam	Kaziranga NP	3	5	5
2	Assam	Orang NP	Nil	3	2
3	Assam	Pobitora WLS	1	2	Nil

(c) Government of India, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes − Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Project Tiger, provide financial and technical assistance to the States for the conservation and development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, which include Rhino areas as well. Rhinos are also included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving them highest degree of protection. In addition, special steps taken by the Government of Assam to protect Rhinos, inter alia, include:

1) Extensive patrolling and round the clock surveillance against poaching by frontline staff.
2) Strengthening communication and wireless network.
3) Provision of arms and ammunition for the protection staff.
4) Construction of protection camps at vulnerable areas.
5) Coordination amongst various law enforcement agencies.
6) Conducting awareness campaigns and implementing various eco development and Joint Forest Management programmes in the neighboring villages for eliciting support for Rhino conservation.
7) Establishment of intelligence network for collecting information.

(d) The financial assistance provided by the Government of India to various Protected Areas (PA) harbouring Rhinos are as under:

Rs. In lakhs

Sl.No.	State	Name of the PA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	Assam	Kaziranga NP	153.00	83.60	59.15
2	Assam	PobitoraWLS	7.60	12.00	23.17
3	Assam	Orang NP	13.00	33.02	Nil
4	Assam	Karbi Anglong WLS	8.15	Nil	8.50
5	Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve	175.21	152.68	183.26
6	West Bengal	Jaldapara WLS	58.25	48.00	71.77
7	West Bengal	Gorumara NP	58.86	64.16	50.21